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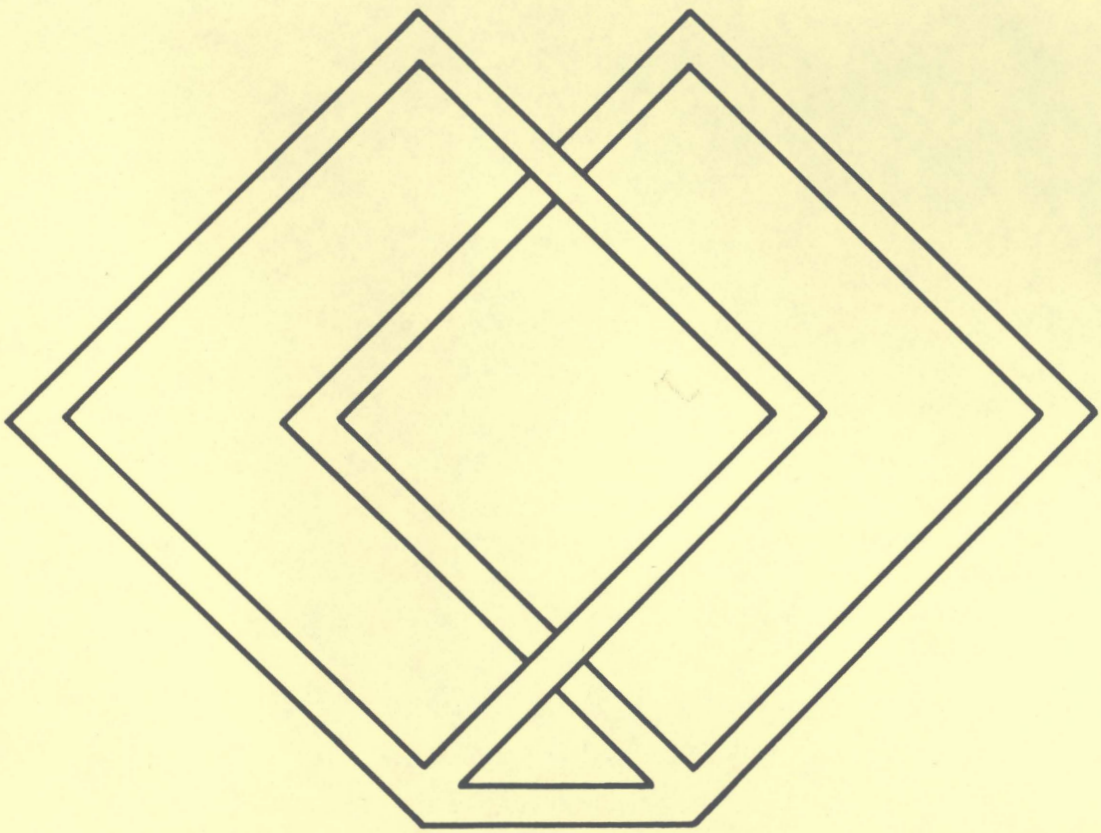

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I N D E X


| Item | Author | Pages |
|---|---|---|
| Editorial | Frank Gillespie | 1. |
| A Note on Halley's Comet as a Source of UFOs | Louis Winkler | 2. |
| On the Preaching and Practice of Scientific Ufology | Frank Gillespie | 3-5. |
| Letter to the Editor | Hilary Evans | 5. |
| UFOs: the Photographic Evidence | Mark Moravec | 6-9. |
| Visions * Apparitions * Alien Visitors | reviewed by Mark Moravec | 9-10. |
| ACUFOS Bibliography Service | John Prytz | 11-16. |
| Further Corrections to Document D-16 | John Prytz | 16. |


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## EDITORIAL

by Frank Gillespie

### POLICY v. NECESSITY

A major privelege/responsibility which goes with the job of editing the ACUFOS Journal, is that of formulating 'editorial policy'. Some of the more important decisions made in my time as editor have been: reprinting of already published material to be resorted to only in exceptional circumstances; never more than one book review to appear in any one issue; and limitation of the packaged weight to 50 grams, except for special issues. Another decision, not to reject a submission because of the expressed point of view, has never had to be invoked - there has never been sufficient material available to give the editor any choice. Yet another decision which is possibly controversial, was not to state the professional qualifications of the authors - because this is a journal for ufologists only, and there are, as yet, no formal qualifications in Ufology.

On the other hand, a major editorial duty/drudgery is the necessity to prepare an 'editorial' for every issue. The spark of inspiration is not available on demand, and inevitably some 'editorials' suffer from the lack thereof. This is where the readers can help - 'guest editorials' on any reasonably relevant topic are always welcome. So if you consider these paragraphs to be boring and uninteresting, the remedy lies in your own hands!

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# A NOTE ON HALLEY'S COMET AS A SOURCE OF UFOs

by Louis Winkler

During the last apparition of Halley's comet in 1910, earth was brushed by the comet's tail. Winkler's (1984a) collection of aerial phenomena during the brushing on May 19 includes various auroras, meteors near the edge of the tail, and a UFO in the form of a red, slow-meteor. All these events were probably cometary in origin since the only other time a comet's tail was known to brush earth, similar phenomena occurred. The other brushing occurred on June 30th, 1861 with Tebutt, and Winkler's (1984a) collection of aerial phenomena for this event included a yellow aurora, dimming of the celestial bodies, and another UFO in the form of a blue, slow-meteor.

The basic explanation of the pre 1947 UFOs collected by Winkler (1984b,c) involves encounter with cometary matter. Earth encounters this matter when it passes through a meteor shower producing cometary stream or when matter from tails formed throughout the cometary orbital stream is sprayed into its path. Matter can be sprayed by the solar wind to the intersections of the comet's orbital line of nodes and earth's path if the comet passes between the earth and the sun. Spraying is most effective when the stream tail disconnects. For Halley's orbital geometry, spraying occurs near May 19th and November 19th each year. The meteors and darkening mentioned above for Halley and Tebutt are caused by small meteorids or dust entering the atmosphere directly. The auroras and UFOs, however, are gaseous and must enter the atmosphere via the geomagnetic tail. As the disconnected matter approaches the magnetic poles it condenses and achieves dynamic stability, often in a round configuration.

There is evidence that particles from Halley's stream have been blown by the sun into earth's path before the 20th century. Corliss (1982) cites 33 instances when earth experienced a noteworthy darkening of the sky, with no apparent explanation. Three of these events occurred with dates of May 19th, 1780; May 19th, 1887 and May 20th, 1857. The probability that these darkenings are accidental among the 33 events is negligible. In view of the darkening produced by Tebutt, it is likely the three May darkenings were caused by dust from Halley's orbital stream. Still other evidence, found by Winkler (1984b), that Halley's stream is supplying matter, in the form of disconnected plasma, is the occurrence of remarkable auroras and geomagnetic storms during mid May and mid November. As with the UFOs occurring at that time of year, the concentrations of three phenomena are significant statistically.

Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that Halley will produce a variety of aerial phenomena during its upcoming visit. It is an old comet, and even the comet's proximity to earth does not insure maximum displays. But Halley does have a maximum number of opportunities in the course of a year to produce UFOs. Its showers are the Aquarids (April 21st-May 12th) and Orionids (October 18th-26th), and its sprays occur around May 19th and November 19th. If matter in Halley's stream is concentrated just before and after the nucleus, the year before and after its closest approach to the sun on February 9th, 1986 could produce noteworthy UFOs.

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# ON THE PREACHING AND PRACTICE OF SCIENTIFIC UFOLOGY

by Frank Gillespie

## Introduction

The trend in recent years for UFO groups and individual ufologists to become more and more scientifically oriented, has done much to bring a degree of respectability into a field once dominated by sloppy amateurism, even outright crackpotism. One important result has been the identification (as mundane experiences) of a very high proportion of reported anomalous events. There has also been considerable modification of the media approach to UFO reports, although the crackpots and their ideas still seem to get more exposure than do the scientific investigators.

At this stage, it is worthwhile taking a close look at scientific ufology, to see just how successfully scientific methodology has been applied in a field which is not altogether amenable to the scientific approach. Apart from anything else, it should be borne in mind that science was introduced into ufology in a spirit of reaction to the early crackpots and their fanaticism; the sort of situation which could well result in a degree of over-reaction, even fanaticism of a different kind.

## Training and Investigation

It stands to reason that a specialist trained UFO investigator will be capable of doing a better job than one who relies entirely on his own inherent resources. However, the problem arises - where are the experts in the field to set up the training programmes? Thus far in ufology, there has been a great deal of 'the blind leading the blind', nevertheless some very worthwhile progress has been made in the preparation of UFO investigator training manuals and training courses. As long as there is no complacency over the accuracy and adequacy of these training programmes, so that they are constantly being revised and improved, there can be no better approach to this aspect of ufology.

Unfortunately the standard of UFO case investigation is not always as high as the available training should make it. There are probably two main reasons for this - the fact that far too many self-styled investigators do not take advantage of the training programmes; and a general lack of time/energy/resources to carry out really exhaustive investigations of all cases. Some of the blame for the first of these can be laid squarely on the individual UFO organizations, for not insisting that all their investigators obtain accreditation through training. There does not seem to be any easy answer to the second problem.

## Identification

It is generally claimed that about 90-95% of all UFO reports end up as IFO reports after competent investigation. There is some doubt about the scientific validity of this claim. After considerable personal experience of the identification process in South Australia (which should be reasonably representative), I believe that this process is far from perfect.

Amongst the tenable theories about UFOs, there is a definite ordering of preference when it comes to 'identification'. If a sighting report can possibly be explained by anything natural/man-made, that is immediately accepted as the final identification. If this fails, the possibility of a hoax, or some other internal intelligence event is explored. If no such possibility exists, the event is then classed as 'unidentified'. Even though the evidence usually suggests some involvement with external intelligence, this is rarely even mentioned or discussed; and of course it is completely taboo as an 'identification'. Maybe I'm wrong, but it seems to me this process is just as bad as giving preference to the UFO theories in the reverse order - the very practice for which the crackpot is so soundly and justifiably condemned.

Whilst UFO reports generated by natural and internal intelligence (IIT) events are likely to fluctuate violently in frequency over the short term, I have never seen any convincing argument in favour of significant long term (several years) variations. The component generated by man-made objects should also remain fairly constant (secret weapons notwithstanding - nothing today remains secret for long), because public familiarity with new technology usually lags only a little behind the introduction of that technology. Now that the public are aware of UFOs, any long-term minimum in UFO reports would have to be regarded as a valid indication of the maximum level which can be assigned to natural/IIT/man-made events at any time. Such a minimum has occurred in South Australia (as elsewhere) over the last four years; and on this basis, the logical scientific conclusion is that in the peak UFO years, much less than 10% of South Australian reports should have been assigned to the natural/IIT/man-made categories. Instead of this, over 90% were so

assigned, thus generating what appear to be contradictory statistics. In this way, the statistics tend to confirm that the 'identification' process was, to say the least, overly enthusiastic.

The distribution of UFO events over distance from the observer seems to be at least in the right ballpark, given the spatial and visibility conditions with which we are familiar (compare it, for instance, with your own experienced distribution of aircraft sightings over distance). Because more detail can be discerned on close objects than on distant ones, the natural expectation is that close-up events would be more amenable to identification; in actual practice, the reverse result is obtained. Almost without exception, UFO events up to a few hundred metres from the observer have defied positive identification, in spite of a concentration of investigative effort on those events. The same can be said of rather more distant objects, where the observer used binoculars to obtain a more detailed description. This suggests very strongly that the 'identifications' of distant UFOs are more often based on a lack of information than on a realistic appraisal of the limited information available. The process could be likened to a pathologist of 50 years ago, 'identifying' a virus from dimly seen featureless blobs, almost beyond the resolving power of his optical microscope. That would have been considered unscientific; and so should some current UFO 'identification' practices.

## Theoretical Ufology

The number of UFO theories continues to proliferate (mainly as new variations on old themes), rather more rapidly than other theories can be discarded as untenable. Although the true scientific ufologist should remain completely open minded about these theories, there is nothing at all wrong with privately leaning towards a theory or theories strongly supported by the evidence. There is a lot wrong with then disparaging other theories, on grounds which are far from scientific.

When Sir Karl Popper proposed his principle, that a theory which is unfalsifiable should be rejected as unscientific, he did ufology a grave dis-service. Fortunately, the world of established science has ignored this principle (except to attack UFO theories), otherwise we would not have such concepts as black holes, white holes, gravity waves, gravitons, tachyons, magnetic monopoles, quarks, or the Big Bang. Archaeology and palaeontology would not exist at all as sciences, because their whole basis is unfalsifiable. Even the simple proposition that mankind can survive a nuclear World War III holocaust is unfalsifiable, because nobody would be around to observe the falsification! Obviously then, Popper's principle is not really a sound basis on which to condemn any theory. However, the worst practice which pervades ufology is the frequent claim - that the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis is unfalsifiable and hence unacceptable - made by the proponents of alternative theories which are themselves equally unfalsifiable. This applies to such theories as psychic phenomena, imagery, hallucination, ball lightning, and meteorological phenomena, just to name a few. Ufology, like archaeology and palaeontology consists exclusively of delving into the past, therefore it is likely that any tenable theory on the subject will be unfalsifiable. Provable, perhaps; but not falsifiable.

'Proof' is also a concept which is subject to continual ufological abuse. Nobody has ever produced a rigorous proof of any UFO theory, and I venture to suggest that nobody ever will. The best that has been done thus far, is to show that certain theories are highly probable solutions to a handful of selected UFO events. Yet there is a widespread unscientific misconception that this kind of circumstantial 'proof' is quite adequate for some 'fashionable' UFO theories, whilst the 'unfashionable' theories require the utmost rigour to warrant their acceptance. Actually, rigorous proofs probably do not exist in science. For example, Newton's Laws of Motion were long considered proven (and therefore, in a special way, unfalsifiable!), until new evidence disclosed their inadequacies. Any proposition which deals competently with the available UFO evidence, with no significant discrepancies, must be regarded as a viable candidate UFO theory; if it is the only such proposition relevant to certain UFO events, then it should be considered proven *pro tem*. 'Proof', like 'falsifiability', is desirable, but not always achievable in the practical situation. Carl Sagan, in Cosmos, said, *"The only sacred truth is that there are no sacred truths!"* This simple, yet profound, comment should be a guiding light to all scientists, and to ufologists above all others.

Another principle which is thoroughly abused by ufologists, is that of Occam's Razor. Correctly stated, the Razor advocates preference for a simple theory over one more complicated (*"It is vain to do with more what can be done with fewer"* - William of Occam). It should not be used to reject any theory, no matter how bad the comparison. It should not be applied to any theory in isolation, no matter how complicated it may appear. Great care

should also be taken in assessing the 'complexity' of a theory. This is, at best, a highly subjective process, particularly if criteria such as 'the number of assumptions' are invoked. One man's 'assumption' may well appear to another to be 'derived from the data'. Furthermore, there is considerable historical evidence that Occam's Razor would actually be better applied in reverse - that the 'simple' theory should be regarded only as a stopgap, until the true complexity of Nature can be unravelled. Like 'unfalsifiability', Occam's Razor is abused by established science only in discrediting UFO theories; otherwise quantum mechanics, relativity, and the embryonic unified field theories would all have been stillborn.

The worst enemy of the ufologist used to be the scientific debunker. Now, the scientific ufologist seems to have taken up the debunker's weapons, and turned them on himself with a fervour little short of fanaticism. Ufology must be the only field, scientific or Fortean, where a whole set of perfectly viable theories is widely rejected without one single valid reason. In this sort of situation, Galileo would feel very much at home.

Conclusion

Although a large number of UFO organizations and individual ufologists pay lip service to the practice of scientific principles in ufology, very few, if any, actually achieve their avowed aim. In part, this is likely to be an over-reaction to the bad old days when the crackpot was king. It could also be caused by an instinctive rejection of anything which threatens to destroy a scientist's faith in his science and his understanding of that science. Such an instinct has always existed, but science has progressed in spite of it - perhaps ufology can likewise progress.

Postscript

There will surely be many who are hurt and resentful at my implication that they have been unscientific in their approach to ufology. However, I make no apology for expressing views which I sincerely believe to be correct. Should anyone find that there are reasonable logical or scientific objections to my analysis, I invite communications pointing out exactly where, how and why I am wrong. The resulting debate should lead to a better accommodation of scientific principles within the framework of ufology.

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LETTER to the EDITOR

Sir,

John Prytz's suggestion ("Nocturnal lights are important too", JACUFOS, Vol. 5, No. 6, p.6-10.) that distant UFO sightings are of truly anomalistic phenomena, which serve as triggers for a widespread epidemic of fantasy experiences - is helpful and plausible as a way of resolving the central paradox of ufology. If/when we succeed in explaining the distant events either as natural phenomena of a type presently unknown, or as ET manifestations (or some of each); and if/when close-up events have been accounted for by psychosocial processes; then the causal relationship of the one to the other will very likely prove to be the element which has been bedevilling us all along. So long as it remained undetected, that relationship made nonsense of the subject by allowing reality and fantasy to be inextricably confused; detected, it restores us to sanity by enabling us to distinguish one kind of phenomenon from the other.

Which would mean we could all pack up and go home, were it not that there are still a good number of cases where it is anything but clear if they belong in the 'remote and real' or 'near and fantasy' categories. I'm thinking of cases like the multiple sighting at Partington, Manchester, UK, on 14.11.1977, when four individuals saw a huge dark oblong, the size of a football field and illuminated like a restaurant, glide silently over their heads, all this on the outskirts of England's second largest city. Reality or fantasy?

I think Prytz has given us a really helpful perspective: but until it can help us resolve such cases - and it wouldn't be difficult to produce a hundred equally ambiguous - we have to recognise that as it stands it is too simplistic. But perhaps if we all put our minds to it, we can help John take it a few steps further.

Hilary Evans (Publications Officer),
Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena.

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# UFOs: THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

by Mark Moravec

A picture may be worth a thousand words. But in the case of UFO photographs, are all the words errors and lies? Or do genuine photographic anomalies exist?

Over several decades, there have been many claims of UFOs having been photographed and filmed. A complete analysis of the UFO evidence necessitates an evaluation of this photographic data.

The aims of this paper are to briefly outline the sources of photographic data available; to present a simple methodology for compiling photographic case data; and to present a preliminary conclusion on the extent that the photographic data contains genuine anomalies.

## Sources

UFO photographic cases are commonly to be found in:

(1) UFO group files
(2) individual investigator files
(3) specialist UFO journals
(4) general mass media

I would estimate that in Australia, several hundred photographic cases could potentially be compiled from all of the above sources.

## Methodology

I decided to examine one readily accessible sample of Australian UFO reports, the files of UFO Research (NSW), for UFO photographic cases. It was found, that in the absence of any covering report summary sheet, the easiest way to detect photographic cases was by examining the UFO report forms which usually have a question inquiring whether any photographs were taken.

Data was extracted from each case and written on to an index card according to the following "Photocat" format:

Date
Time
Location
Number of photos/slides/films
  Description of visual sighting
  Description of film image
  Visual correlation?
  Type of camera used
Explanation (and name of evaluator)
Source: investigation group and report ref. number

Abbreviations commonly used are:
NO = No Data
NFD = No Further Data
VC = Visual Correlation

## The Sample

Table 1 summarises the above data for the UFO Research (NSW) sample. The cases are given in chronological order.

The following observations can be made about the data:

(1) Although the reviewed files range from the 1950s to 1984, the photographic cases originate from a seven-year period from 1972 to 1978. This probably reflects a period of more intensive investigation compared to earlier years. There has also been a marked downturn in total reported UFO sightings since the peak year of 1978.

TABLE 1 : UFO PHOTOGRAPHIC CASES FROM UFO RESEARCH (NSW) FILES (PHOTOCAT)

| DATE | TIME | LOCATION | NO. PHOTOS | VISUAL SIGHTING | FILM IMAGE | VC | CAMERA | EXPLANATION | SOURCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 Jun 72 | 1745 | Ryde, NSW | 1 photo col. time exp. | Bright star-like light, sometimes faded | ND | ND | ND | Star (Hough) | UFOR(NSW) NA72-023 |
| 29 Apr 73 | 2225 | Slack's Ck, QLD | 1 movie super 8 col. | Disc-shaped light | ND | Yes | Cine Super 8 | Poor quality film (Herbison-Evans) | UFOR(NSW) 1973 ML file |
| 22 May 73 | 2020 | Rogens Hill, NSW | 2 photos time exp. | 4 yellow lights and 1 red light which moved horizontally | ND | ND | Asahi Pentax | ND | UFOR(NSW) 1973 ML file |
| 31 May 73 | 2300 | Tyringham, NSW | 5 photos time exp. | 2 lights, one moved up and down and behind mountains | ND | ND | Yashica Electro | Prob. star plus data inconsistencies (Gillespie) | UFOR(NSW) NA73-003 |
| 13 Jul 73 | 2330 | Tyringham, NSW | 1 photo | Object with red and green lights made small vertical movements | Star trail | Yes | ND | Possible astronomical (Hough) | UFOR(NSW) NA73-042 |
| c. Jul 75 | 1740 | Condobolin, NSW | 3 photos | Orbiting black cylinder generates smoky trail | Small black ring | Yes | Mamiya Sekor 528 | Unexplained (Smyth) | UFOR(NSW) NA75 DD file |
| 23 Oct 76 | 1600 | Toallo Point, NSW | 2 movies, ? photos | 3-6 dull grey elliptical objects, closest one rotating | Small ellipses (movie), small dots (photos) | Yes | Magnon Yashica | Unknown (Reneke) | UFOR(NSW) NA78-007 |
| c. Aug 77 | 1710 | Orange, NSW | 7 slides | Orange ball of light above setting sun | Same as visual | Yes | ND | Mirage effect | UFOR(NSW) NA79-097a |
| c. 77 | ND | Coomba Park, NSW | 1 photo | "Light coming out of lake" NFD | ND | ND | ND | ND | UFOR(NSW) NA77-026 |
| 10 Jan 78 | 0400 | Bakers Creek Falls, NSW | 4-5 photos | 2 irregular-shaped yellow objects, one dropped showers of sparks | Blurred yellow shape (1 photo) | Yes | Kodak instam. | Unknown (Chalker/Reneke) | UFOR(NSW) NA78-003 |
| 26 Aug 78 | 1730 | Bathurst, NSW | 5 photos | Light(s) seen near setting sun | Setting sun scene only | No | "Instamatic" | Setting sun (Hough) | UFOR(NSW) NA79-079b |
| ND | Day | nr Gosford, NSW | 1 photo | No visual sighting | ND | No | ND | Photographic flaw (Reneke) | UFOR(NSW) NA80-017 |

(2) Of the 12 surveyed cases, 2 feature movie films; the remaining 10 feature photographs or slides only.
(3) The 12 cases involve a sum total of 3 movie films and 32 photographs/slides.
(4) Of the 12 cases, 3 are unexplained in the judgement of the case investigators.
(5) Of the 3 unexplained cases, 2 are of apparently structured objects sighted in daylight hours. most of the identified cases are of nocturnal lights.
(6) Documentation varies from poor to good. For example, some cases consist of a report form with minimal follow-up; and 6 cases have no recorded data on the film image. Other cases involve percipient interviews by a qualified investigator, an on-site investigation and/or photographic analyses.

The three unexplained cases are outlined in further detail below:

Condobolin, 1975

Mr B is the owner of a small contract roofing company and was supervising the erection of a metal roof to a new abattoirs building about five to six kilometres west of Condobolin. The men were working seven days a week and consequently were unsure of the exact date of the sighting (approximately late July, 1975).

It was about 5.30 in the afternoon when one of the men noticed the object and the smoke ring in the SE. (There were about eight men working on the roof.) Gradually, most of the men stopped to observe the strange phenomenon, which was 20° above the horizon. The men noticed that all the dogs in the area seemed to be barking at something.

The object appeared as a small black cylinder which was moving anticlockwise in a circular path and appeared to be generating a thick black smoky trail as it moved. The cylinder completed one revolution every six seconds.

After watching the phenomenon for about five minutes, during which no change was noticed, B suddenly remembered that he had a camera in the boot of his car, parked nearby. He sent one of the men down to the car (they were on a roof about 12 m above the ground) to get it. He returned after another five minutes with the camera (Mamiya Sekor 528, lens 48 mm, f 1:2.8) which was loaded with Kodak colour print film. The man also brought back a Polaroid camera which belonged to one of the other men. This was loaded with black and white film.

After watching the object for a few minutes more, they decided to try to photograph it. The owner of the Polaroid took one exposure, which, when ready, did not register the object. (The object was small and it would appear that the wide angle lens on the Polaroid did not resolve the object into a large enough image to appear on the film. The automatic exposure mechanism of the camera may also have contributed in exposing only for sky.)

Mr B then took three photos of the object, the second one a few minutes after the first, then waited a few more minutes before taking the third.

Approximately 20 minutes after the object was first observed, it suddenly shot upwards at circa 85° and was lost from sight. The "smoke" ring then gradually faded and/or dispersed, being lost in a few minutes.

The weather during the sighting was clear and fairly calm. Some thin clouds are seen in the distance in the photos.

The object/ring appeared to be less than a kilometre away from the witnesses and the ring appeared to be thicker than the diameter of the object.

Mr B subsequently almost forgot about the incident, not expecting the photos to turn out. It was only after the films were returned from Kodak that he decided to contact UFO Research (NSW). All three photographs clearly show a small black ring shape in the sky.

In the opinion of the investigator, the phenomenon observed cannot be ezplained as a smoke ring formed by a forest fire or from burning off, as no other smoke is visible in the picture to indicate the presence of such burning.

(Adapted from Smyth, M. Unusual Object Near Condobolin, an investigation report for UFO Research (NSW).)

Toallo Point, 1976

At approximately 4.00 pm on 23 October 1976, three young men, Nicholas F, Frank Z and his brother, Bill Z, were preparing their cameras for the coming eclipse of the sun. They were located on top of Toallo Point lookout, a large cliff face overlooking the sea, in Ben Boyd National Park. They had an unobstructed view in all directions. Whilst setting up their cameras, one of the trio noticed "something unusual" on the horizon. After watching for a few minutes, Frank decided to swing his camera around and shoot a short section of movie film of the closer, or more prominent object. Nicholas, too, turned his attention away from the west where the sun was about to undergo the first stages of eclipse and took a number of photographs. All agreed that there were about five objects in line formation hovering just above the horizon to the east and as they watched the objects appeared to be moving up and down in a "buffeting" manner while the larger/closer object seemed to be approaching and receding slightly.

Both cameras were mounted on sturdy tripods and both cameras were loaded with medium speed colour film. The movie camera was new, and prior to this time, had not been used. The film stock was Kodak Ektachrome 160.

By naked eye, the objects appeared as grey "streaks", round in shape and clearly outlined against the clear blue sky. However, as Frank Z focussed his movie camera on the main object, taking in as much foreground detail as possible for later reference,

he was accorded a much better view than his two companions.

He set the focus ring of the camera to infinity and zoomed in; the object began to take definite form and his excitement mounted as he continued filming. He was looking at a dome-shaped, grey object, rotating in an anti-clockwise manner with no discernable surface features. He added later that the upper section of the object blended smoothly with the lower portion and the colour was like that of dull alloy. He was awestruck and called out to the others to come and have a look. Nicholas did so first and without hearing any details from Frank, said that it was turning. When asked which direction, he added "anti-clockwise".

The camera was then panned rather quickly, as an amateur would without knowing the disastrous effects this can have on the screen, briefly scanning the smaller/more distant objects. Meanwhile, Bill Z and Nick F were busy at the still camera and after taking a small number of shots returned to where Frank was. Frank, thinking that he had obtained good, clear footage, had by now turned the camera back to the west in anticipation of the coming eclipse. After all, this was the main reason they had made the long journey from Sydney and he wanted to save as much film as possible for that reason.

Shortly after 4.00 pm, the eclipse started and as the sky was beginning to darken appreciably, the trio discontinued looking in the direction of the objects and turned their full attention on the sun, shooting the remaining film they had. After the eclipse was over they again turned their attention to the objects but nothing was in sight. The sky was clear and blue with a wisp of cloud as before. It was a stark contrast to what they had seen only a short time before.

The projected film was a great disappointment to the witnesses. The clarity of the images was poor compared to what they saw by naked eye and the photographs that Nick took, although clear, showed only small indistinct dots. The investigator examined individual frames of the movie film under low power magnification and discovered a hat-shaped and an inverted bowl-shaped images. The original film was analysed using computer enhancement facilities by Ground Saucer Watch Inc. of Phoenix, Arizona, which concluded that the "image represents a structured object of unknown origin, without any sign of a misinterpretation of a conventional object or phenomenon".

(Adapted from an investigation report for UFO Research (NSW) and from Reneke, O. The Ben Boyd UFO Movie: History and Evaluation. (UFOCON 4 paper), Australian UFO Researcher 60, Nov-Dec 1979, 2-5.)

Bakers Creek Falls, 1978

A single witness, Gary P, observed two luminous lights as he was driving between Grafton and Armidale on 10 January, 1978. One moved over the mountains and the other hovered above the ground a short distance from the witness.

It began falling in a stop-start fashion, finally maintaining a level elevation 9-12 metres above the ground. It emitted "sparks" as it hovered and he shone his car headlights and a pocket torch on the object with no reaction noted.

As the witness was still on the road standing beside his van he remembered that he had a loaded Kodak instamatic camera in the glove compartment. He reached for the camera and quickly exposed a series (possibly four to five) of photographs of the object as it continued to hover in the one spot. It was later found that setting errors and light problems prevented the photos from turning out properly.

It was at this point that the witness feels he had a loss of memory and the next few minutes are vague; he cannot remember what transpired directly after he had taken the photographs and he thinks that something had taken place but was perhaps erased from his memory.

He drove on down the road and alighted to see a huge elongated object with "portholes" along its side hovering above the ground. The witness ran into the paddock where the object was hovering but returned to the roadway when he heard a car approaching. The driver slowed down and passed the witness who, by being in an agitated state, must have appeared to be mentally affected and gave the wrong impression to the driver of this vehicle. The witness again ran into the field and saw the same vehicle tearing back the way he came at high speed. When he again looked for the object, the witness noted that in its place was a strange "mist" that retreated up the creek and then returned to encircle him. He heard a distinct humming sound directly above the mist. The mist departed along with the object and the witness then continued on his journey.

Gary P placed an advertisement in the local paper the next day and other witnesses contacted him to relate their UFO experiences in the same general area. The witness suffered much discomfort after the event and he could not sleep for a period of five days and nights after it.

(Adapted from an investigation report by David Reneke for UFO Research (NSW), and from Chalker, B. A Strange Encounter at Bakers Creek Falls. Australian UFO Newsletter 54/55, Jul-Aug 1978, 6-12.)

Whilst the Bakers Creek Falls report is unidentified, the photographs unfortunately turned out poorly. The photographs and films involved in the Condobolin and Toallo Point cases feature small images relative to the size of the frames. Yet these images are still sufficiently detailed to be provocative and thus far unexplained.

Conclusion

Like other categories of UFO reports, most photographic cases can be explained in mundane terms as misidentifications and hoaxes. Yet there remains a residue of unexplained photographs and movie films.

An examination of a sample of 12 photographic cases has revealed that three of the twelve reports are currently unexplained. Of the three reports, two cases feature provocative photographic images.

Whilst there is a relatively high proportion of unexplained cases in this sample of reports, this is probably due to the effective filtering of incoming photographic cases by the UFO investigation group. The total picture, which includes many spurious reports propagated by an uncritical mass media, would most likely show that only a very small proportion of total photographic cases are inexplicable. An unpublished survey of Australian UFO photographic cases by David Reneke suggested that of some 100 claims, perhaps less than four or five cases were of any merit. This underlies the need for a critical approach to evaluating UFO photographic cases.

I encourage other researchers to catalogue and publish summaries of the UFO photographic cases investigated by their state UFO groups, preferably along the lines of the PHOTOCAT format outlined in this paper. If every state group were to do this, we would then be in a much better position to understand the photographic dimensions of the UFO enigma as it manifests in Australia.

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## VISIONS * APPARITIONS * ALIEN VISITORS

Author: Hilary Evans

(Wellingborough UK: Aquarian Press, 1984, 320 pp, illustrated)

reviewed by Mark Moravec

The author of Visions * Apparitions * Alien Visitors, British researcher Hilary Evans, has also written The Evidence for UFOs (1983) and Intrusions (1982), the latter being a sociological examination of the paranormal. In his most comprehensive work to date, Evans focuses on the "entity enigma".

Previous works, notably Vallee's Passport to Magonia (1969) and Clark and Coleman's The Unidentified (1975) have compared and discussed different types of reported entities from primarily a UFO researcher point of view, but Evans' work is certainly the most exhaustive examination to date. Visions... is logically organised into three parts which examine a broad range of spontaneously-manifesting entities, experimentally-induced entities, and finally, the possible explanations for entity reports.

In the first part, Hilary Evans examines the various forms in which entities manifest spontaneously to percipients. As well as the UFO entities and "Men in Black" familiar to ufologists; and the apparitions, haunting entities, doppelgängers and astral doubles familiar to parapsychologists; the author looks at areas traditionally in the domain of the psychologist. That is, the entities perceived during dreams, hypnagogic states, hallucinations and the imaginary companions of childhood. Religious visions, demonic entities and the entities of folklore are also covered.

The author explores the differences as well as the similarities between different types of entity experience. Thus haunting entities appear to have a connection with the "place" as well as the percipient; visions of the Virgin Mary tend to recur over a period of several weeks or months unlike isolated crisis apparitions; and in contrast to religious visions, UFO entities are often reported by people who had no apparent prior belief in such entities. Yet all entity percipients share the realisation that they are observing something that is not quite real or not quite the same as flesh and blood human beings.

Along the way, Evans openmindedly discusses the possible explanations, particularly as to whether it is the percipient, an external agent or an interaction between both, which produces the entity experience. He also raises some "awkward questions" associated with these explanations. For example, in the 1974, Zimbabwe UFO case, it was claimed by one percipient, "Peter", (the other had been sleeping) that a UFO had taken over control of the car and that contact had been made with a UFO entity which identified its origin as from a highly developed civilisation in the "outer galaxies". The psychological approach might suggest that the entire episode was a fantasy generated in the course of an altered state of consciousness resulting from driving long distances on featureless roads

at night. But what of the allegations that the couple had travelled at an impossibly high speed and used only two litres of fuel to cover 288 kilometres? Had "Peter" in fact stopped and refueled while in a trance state, having no recollection of it even when hypnotised?

In part two, the author examines experimental entities, i.e. attempts by people to deliberately cause entities to manifest. The Lawson-McCall experiments, wherein imaginary contacts with UFO entities were fabricated by means of hypnotic suggestion, are reviewed; as is the remarkable "story of Ruth" case study of controlled hallucinations reported by psychiatrist, Morton Schatzman. Also discussed are various experiments in the projection of an apparition of one's self to other unknowing people; the attempted summoning of entities by means of witchcraft or magic; contacts with "spirits of the dead"; and the drug-induced entity experiences of shamans.

Of course, the most important questions are: how and why does the entity experience occur? In part three, Hilary Evans discusses the various hypotheses that have been advanced to explain the entity experience. The processes involved in hallucinations and dissociated personalities might be relevant. Jung proposed the existence of symbolic archetypes derived from a common collective unconscious. The image-bank hypothesis proposes that there is an external resource of information accessible to the subconscious mind during certain altered states of consciousness (as suggested by crisis apparitions and psychometry?). The psi-substance hypothesis proposes that there is a kind of psychic "ether" or other substance upon which past events or portions of a personality may register (as suggested by hauntings?). The induced-dream hypothesis, although originally proposed by UFO researchers, might also be applicable to all kinds of entity experiences. This idea proposes that a stimulus triggers in the percipient a waking dream which incorporates elements of personal or cultural significance.

The author generally maintains an appropriate balance of scepticism and open-mindedness. But there are a couple of points where I differ. I disagree with the author's conclusion that there are some cases of spirit materialisation and ectoplasm production which are genuine rather than fraudulent. It seems to me that the hypothesis that physical manifestations have markedly declined because tighter controls have detected and countered fraud is a good hypothesis in this particular instance. And I think there remains an uncertainty as to exactly how rigorous the experimental conditions were in the nineteenth century attempts at controlling against fraud. I am also unconvinced that there is clearcut evidence for an external cause for some entities such as in crisis apparitions and haunting cases. The study of anomalous phenomena has shown that the human mind is indeed capable of producing many wondrous experiences without the aid of an external intelligence.

The author's interdisciplinary approach of studying different kinds of entity reports is successful in the insights it offers. There is a strong case made that entities of different types are caused by the same basic processes, with the details varying according to the personal, cultural and situational circumstances.

Hilary Evans' book is a state-of-the-art summary of what we know about entity experiences and their possible explanations. Visions... is highly recommended as essential reading for anyone who has ever been puzzled by the entity encounters that have been claimed for centuries - and still occur today.

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## ACUFOS BIBLIOGRAPHY SERVICE: ASTRO-ARCHAEOLOGY: PART 2 (by) John Prytz

Compiler's Note: Part 1 of this offering was presented in the Aug. 1980 Issue. Back then, it was a synthesis of astro-archaeology, "ancient astronauts", and other archaeological mysteries. While such an integration is okay for small number of references, it gets unwieldy beyond a certain point. Thus, recent updates have separated the components. In keeping with that policy, this is only, and strictly, on astro-archaeology and closely related topics. Further references to "ancient astronauts" and archaeological curiosities can be found in the updates.

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SOME FURTHER CORRECTIONS AND AMPLIFICATIONS TO ACUFOS DOCUMENT D-16

Compiler's Note: See also ACUFOS Journal, Nov./Dec. 1983 - p.23 and the issue for Nov./Dec. 1984 - p.16 for previous corrections, etc.

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no. 282 - p.8 - change month from Aug. to Oct. 1977; change pagination from p.32+ to p.17-22.

no. 290 - p.8 - add p.351.

no's 363, 389, 405, 443, 446, 457, 498 - p.10-13 - date is 29 June 1963.

no. 376 - p.10 - date is Nov. 1881.

no. 402 - p.11 - add author Sagan, C.

no. 640 - p.17 - add p.31-32.

no. 724 - p.20 - date is 3 Feb. 1962.

no. 1168 - p.31 - date is March 1977.

no. 1194 - p.31 - date is Jan. 1976.

no. 1419 - p.37 - date is July 1952.

no. 1475 - p.38 - change month from April to July 1973.

no. 1738 - p.45 - v.t.: Micro Millennium - Viking, N.Y. - 1979.

no. 1765 - p.46 - add p.5-13.

no. 1837 - p.48 - full pagination is p.84, 86.

no. 1852 - p.48 - date is 22 March 1974.

no. 2177 - p.56 - extend "discussion" through p.170.

no. 2312 - p.60 - add author Lewis, C.S.

no. 2682 - p.69 - delete co-author Whritenour, J.

no. 2692 - p.69 - work is fictional; change date from 1957 to 1952.

no. 2996 - p.76 - add p.6-9.

no. 3217 - p.81 - date is Aug. 1976.

no. 3431 - p.86 - full pagination is p.58, 61-62, 66, 106.

no. 3448 - p.86 - change p.1207-1208 to p.1207-1218.

no. 3541 - p.89 - date is 29 March 1974.

no. 3548 - p.89 - add p.626-627.

no. 3565 - p.89 - full pagination is p.139-140.

Name Index - p.98 - add to Lewis, C.S. no. 2312.

Name Index - p.101 - add to Sagan, C. no. 402.

Name Index - p.103 - delete from Whritenour, J. no. 2682.

Journal Index - p.104 - add to Astronomical Journal no. 1157.

Journal Index - p.104 - delete from Astrophysical Journal no. 1157.

Journal Index - p.104 - change all references from "Annuals" to "Annals"; also change same in the titles of no's 362-363, 389, 405, 443, 446, 457, 459, 498, 662, 1496, 1701, 1768, 2198, 2317, 2461.

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